

Cracklin' Static

JANUARY 2019 Edition



Breakfast Meeting: Sat, May 4th

Boomtown Casino Hotel
Events Center
I-80 at Exit 4 in Verdi

Breakfast Buffet – 7:30am - \$12
General Meeting – 8:00am

Don Sherman W7SSB will have some new toys from Chameleon Antennas

SNARS NET on DMR – Tuesday 8pm
DMR Talk Group: 31328 SNARS

SNARS Treasury – As of April 28

Operating Acct:	\$ 6,919
Convention Acct:	\$ 8,400
Savings:	\$ 8,165
Self Insurance:	\$ 4,667
PayPal:	\$ 679
Total:	\$28,830

SNARS Membership – ending Mar 31

General	111	30%
Technician	118	32%
Extra	124	34%
Advanced	12	3%

SNARS Members	365
ARRL Members	236

President's Voice

President John Byerly, N7ROJ

Email: mtnlion@gmail.com



Spring has sprung in the area, and many of us turn to outdoor activities, antenna repairs, upgrades, yard work, and vacations.

We also have several area-related amateur radio activities coming up:

1. NVCON, The team is firming up plans, and still looking for volunteers.
2. Barry, K6ST and the youth involvement team had a presence at Kids on Big Rigs this weekend and our club got a lot of exposure there. They have other activities coming up soon.
3. There is discussion of having a repeater control operator class soon. Pat W7DED will be teaching the repeater infrastructure to potential operators so they understand what the codes do with our complex network.
4. The tech team who need to visit sites for repairs and alignments, a chance to see first hand what goes on at the mountain tops,
5. NVQSO party. Jim W6US is working hard to make sure this goes well. Don't miss the chance to BE the DX!

Feel free to contact any of the team leads, the board, or myself if you have any questions or wish to help out or be part of any of these great club efforts!

Have a great month!

73 John/N7ROJ



NVCON
RENO-TAHOE 2019

Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention
July 19 – 21, 2019
Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, Nevada



PO BOX 7727 Reno NV 89510
Yearly Dues: \$40.00 Individual • \$50.00 Family
775.453.4142 <http://snars.org>

2019 Officers

President.....John Byerly, N7ROJ
Vice-President.....Jim Shepherd, W6US
Treasurer.....Bill Jones, AE7OX
Secretary.....Anthony Marcin, W7XM
DirectorWes Vick, KG7QXE
DirectorJohn Miller N7JDM
DirectorBarry Bettman, K6ST

2019 Staff

Cracklin Static..... Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
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KR7ENO Trustee Howie Holden, WB2AWQ
Control Operator Pat Sheehan, W7DED
Historian Jon Fox, KF7KTC
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Recording Secretary.....Doug Edmondo, W7DBE

Cracklin Static Publication

Editor: Howie Holden **WB2AWQ** - holden7471@msn.com
Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size, line spacing or other tools as may be required to publish this Newsletter. **Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday** prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

SNARS Wide Area Linked System

147.030 + PL 123.0	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
147.210 + PL 100.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
147.150 + PL 123.0	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
146.925 - PL 123.0	Lovelock, Fallon	Online
146.670 - PL 123.0	Winnemucca	Online
444.875 + PL 100.0	Yerington	Online
444.125 + PL 123.0	Reno Sparks	Offline

DMR Systems

444.925 + CC 1	Reno, Sparks	Online
444.825 + CC 1	Dayton, Fallon, Carson	Online
443.925 + CC 1	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
443.950 + CC 1	Incline Village	Online
442.875 + CC 1	Sparks, Fernley, Fallon	Online
442.850 + CC 1	Downtown Reno	Online
441.950 + CC 1	Fallon, Fernley	Offline

Fusion Systems

146.610 - PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
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IRLP / EchoLink Systems

147.300 + PL 123.0	Reno, Sparks	Online
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Packet / APRS

145.050 - RNO	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
145.050 - ROSE	Lake Tahoe, Truckee, Carson	Online
144.390 - TOULON	Lovelock, Fallon	Online

Standalone Systems

147.390 + PL 100.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
443.075 + PL 123.0	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online
927.0875 + PL 114.8	Reno, Carson, Dayton	Online

 Online  Offline  Not Linked

Thank you to our Sponsors/Supporters



Weekday on the SNARS Linked System

147.030 + PL 123 – Sparks/Fernley
 147.150 + PL123.0 – Lake Tahoe / Truckee
 147.210 + PL 100.0 - Reno
 444.875 + PL 100.0 - Yerington
 146.925 - 123.0 – Lovelock / Fallon
 146.67 – PL 123.0 - Winnemucca

Monday through Friday @ 12:00pm

Open to all amateur radio operators. A general informational net for the amateur radio community of Northern Nevada and Eastern California. Radio Checks and Questions are welcomed.

Nets on the SNARS Linked Systems

147.210 + 100.0 | 147.030 + 123.0 | 147.150 + 123.0
 147.670 – 123.0 | 146.925 – 123.0 | 444.875 + 100.0

ERC Net for NV and Northern CA	Monday @ 9:15pm
N. Western NV ARES Net	Thursday at 7:30pm
Northern Nevada Preppers Net	Wednesday @ 8:00PM
Hospital Net	Friday @ 10:00AM

Nets on IRLP (GSR) System

Repeater: 147.300 + 123.0

Amateur Radio Newsline	Monday - 8:00PM
Nevada Skywarn Net	Wednesday - 7:00pm
Nevada State ARES Net	Thursday - 7:00PM

Nets on Simplex/HF

Jefferson Noon Net	7.204 LSB	Daily - 12:00pm
6 Meter Net	50.350 USB	Tuesday – 8:00pm
2 Meter Week Signal	144.250 USB	Wednesday - 8:00PM
2 Meter Simplex Net	146.500 FM	Thursday – 8:00PM
10 Meter Net	28.350 USB	Sunday – 2:00PM

SNARS Weekly DMR Net – Tuesdays
8:00PM

SNARS Talk Group 31328

Open to Members and Guests. A general information net each week on DMR.

SNARS CALENDAR

Ham Radio Night at the REOC Wednesday, May 1
6 PM Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno NV

SNARS Board Meeting Wednesday May 8, 6 PM

QCWA Nevada Chapter Sat, May 11, 11am – 12pm
Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, 4925 Kietzke Ln, Reno

NVCON Planning Meeting Thursday, May 16, 6 PM
Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno NV

One Day Ham Review Saturday, May 18, 2019
Washoe REOC 5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno NV
 Visit <http://snars.org/classes> for more information
 on the One Day Ham Review / Ham Cram

Next SNARS Breakfast Meeting – Saturday June 1, 8 AM
Boomtown Casino Hotel Events Center I-80 at Exit 4 Verdi

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

MARCH 2019

Robert	Erickson	KD5QFO
Mike	Hautekeet	K7MMH
Thomas	Hulbert	W6XX
Jeremy	Schmitt	W7EKD
Joseph	Valencia	KM6HJP
Edward	Munzie	KD6WWR
James	Wood	KJ7EIT

THE NAME OF THE GAME

Jim Shepherd, W6US nvjims@gmail.com

7TH AREA QSO PARTY

The 7QP is an amateur radio QSO party, held annually on the first Saturday in May. That's May 4th this year. The stations of the US 7th call area (Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming) become "the pursued", and the rest of the US, Canada and the world tries to work as many of us, on as many bands/modes as possible, over an 18-hour period commencing at 6:00am PDT (1300 UTC).

This year, we are again going to have a QSO party of our own in October, and the 7QP will be an excellent opportunity to get some practice in before our big party!

Operate from home, mobile or dust off the Field Day gear and get on the air from a rare county or a county line where you can operate from two or more counties at once and get extra points! Please plan on making a few or a whole bunch of contacts, just be sure to mark May 4 on your calendar! Yes, that is the club meeting date at Boomtown, but you can work the contest the rest of the day.

We are trying to get all 17 Nevada counties on the air. Go portable and blow the carbon out of the generator or stay home and try out that new wire antenna. Or you can go mobile and activate several counties in your area. Visit the 7QP website: www.7qp.org for additional information and the full rules. May is a good time for an early camping trip out to some of the less populated rural counties. Humboldt, Elko, Lander and Eureka counties can really use some help with contacts. You can work these from county line locations along I-80 and make twice the contacts at once. The free campgrounds at Walker Lake will give you some spectacular views, wildflowers, bighorn sheep, and you can use the lake for a big "radial field" giving you an excellent signal to the east. Do not overlook the junctions of Nevada counties and other '7' states for interesting expedition operations.

Contacts can be made using SSB, CW, and Digital modes and each mode counts as a different contacts. You can also contact the same station on different bands for credit. You can use 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. One of the changes this year is that they are dropping the VHF bands. CW and digital contacts will be highly appreciated as the CW count 2 points and the digital modes count 4 points... PSK31 and RTTY will be the best way to go to get those extra QSO points, sorry you can't use FT8. All counties in Nevada can use more CW and Digital operations for this contest. Those members of FISTS and QCWA need to activate all the counties on CW with lots of operations.

There is one spot near a section of Goni Road north of Carson City where the four counties of Washoe, Carson, Storey, and Lyon come together and you can set up along the road within 500' of that point. If you run digital from there, you will be making 16 points plus any multiplier worked with each contact... If you want to win the digital class or mixed classes, that is the place to operate. There are a number of spots where 3 counties come together, with a few having roads within 500'. Others will require some hiking and would be best for QRP operation.

If you plan to participate, even for a little while, do two things. First, let them know so they can put your activity on the [Planned Operations](http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?Content=START&Page=2) (<http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?Content=START&Page=2>) tab on the 7QP page. That way they can track the counties that will be covered and we can try to find someone to go out to the counties that are not. Even if the county is covered, digital and CW operators are encouraged to also go out there... Second, email them a copy of your log when you are finished. Either Cabrillo (preferred) or ADIF format will work. Your log helps them score the contest and automatically enters you – no summary sheet required for email entries. See their webpage for more information on uploading your log.

The exchange is easy... Just give a '59' signal report and if you are operating in the 7 call zone, your county code. For Washoe, it is NVWAS, for Storey, it is NVSTO... If you are outside of the 7 call zone, you give a '59' signal report and your 2 digit state abbreviation. There are special rules for county line stations, and you may get a report from one of the eastern states that are also having a QSO party. See the complete rules on their website for more information and a full list of county abbreviations.

There are a couple of other QSO parties that weekend so there is a lot of activity. The N1MM Logger will handle all of the contests at the same time so you only have to send copies of your Cabrillo log to each of the different sponsors. Nebraska, Indiana and Delaware are currently the other states—be sure to check their rules if you intend to play with them.

In October, we will have the Nevada QSO party and we will need veteran operators in all the counties and on all of the modes. We will have a special VHF class that will allow the use of repeaters which will get a lot more people involved. Check out our website at <http://nvqso.com/>

Nevada is a semi-rare state and some of the counties are very hard to work. These two contests will help to fill some holes in the log-books. A good turnout for the 7QP will help with increased participation for our NVQSO Party and will show the world that we actually have hams here in Nevada!

SNARS LOGO ITEMS

This year we are celebrating our 50th year by providing many ways to commemorate this occasion by imprinted our 50th



Stickers \$1.00 Each



16oz Coffee Mugs \$8.00



Hats \$10.00



Club Badge \$15.00

Order at

<http://snars.org/store/badge-order>

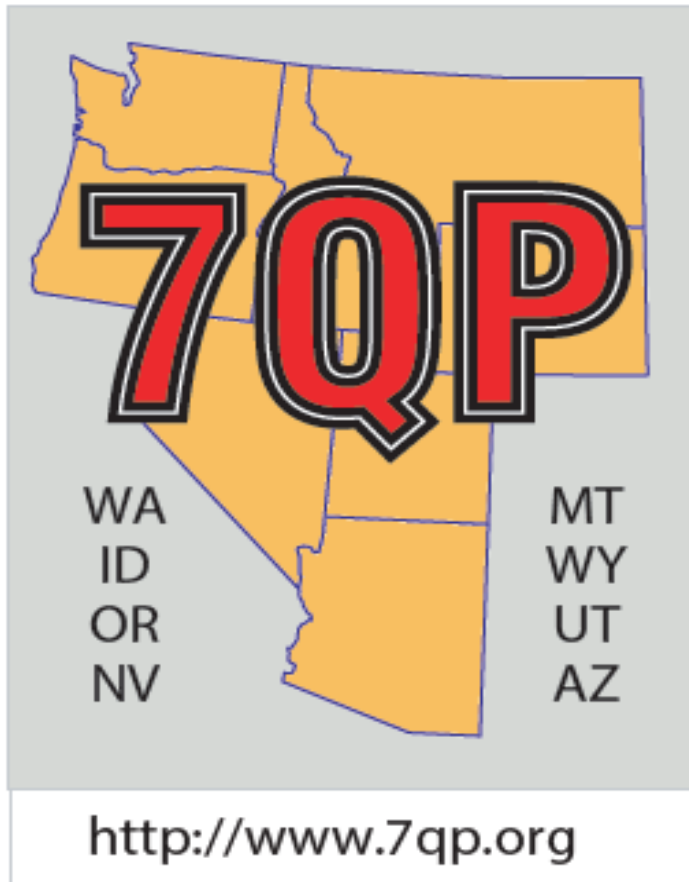
Items are available at the monthly meetings, events or online (coming soon) <http://snars.org/store>



NVCON
RENO-TAHOE 2019

Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention
July 19 – 21, 2019
Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, Nevada

The 7th Call Area QSO PARTY!



Saturday May 4

6AM to Midnight

1300 UTC Saturday - 0700 UTC Sunday

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10m

ATTENTION NEVADA HAMS!

Let's make a pledge for all Amateur Radio Operators in Nevada who have a General Class or higher to get on the bands and make at least 10 contacts! Lets show the Country Nevada Does Matter! And support this great event!

7QP is an amateur radio contest, held annually on the first Saturday in May. The stations of the US 7th call area (Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming) become "the pursued", and the rest of the US, Canada, and the world tries to work as many of us, on as many bands/modes as possible, over an 18-hour period commencing at 6:00am Pacific Time (1300 UTC).

JOIN US THIS WEEKEND!

visit <http://www.7qp.org> for contest rules



NVCN
RENO-TAHOE 2019

Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention

July 19 – 21, 2019

Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, Nevada

MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER FORTY THREE

Mike Katz, N7MSK



ARRL FIELD DAY --- 2019

As the club member who will be coordinating this years Field Day activity, I will provide various forms of information about the event for the newer hams and some guidance as to what we will be doing and the help that will be needed to do it.

There will be a monthly article in the Cracklin Static- If you want more info about anything in any of the articles let me know.

FIELD DAY -2019

June 23 & June 24

North End of Washoe Lake State Park

It's sneaking up on us..... There is a lot of preparation needed to have fun and have another impressive radio showing for SNARS.

Those of you that are planning to participate on the radio and haven't talked to Jim W6US, should do so to get detailed information about what it takes to do the broadcasting from 06/23@ 1200 to 06/24@1200 & what you need to bring to support your stay at the park and to have a comfortable, fun and productive event.



There will be more discussion and question answering at the Club meeting on Saturday morning, May 4 at Boomtown -See you there....

Mike – N7MSK

Howie – WB2AWQ

NVCON NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!

Needs: Setup: 4 to 6 people, Thursday 8 AM to Noon, Teardown: 4 to 6 people Sunday 8 AM to Noon

Country Store: 4 to 6 people Friday and Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM

Registration Table: 6 people to work in shifts entire convention, two tables, raffle and entry sales

Presenters assistants: 2 people to help with presenters Friday and Saturday

See Jim Shepherd's article on page 13 for full details!



NVCON
RENO-TAHOE 2019

Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention

July 19 – 21, 2019

Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, Nevada

HAM RADIO MEETS BIG RIGS IN SPARKS NV.

Saturday, April 27, 2019 five thousand kids and adults participated in an event called “Kids on Big Rigs”. The event allows children an up and close interaction with commercial vehicles and emergency technology.

Barry Bettman K6ST ARRL Nevada Section Youth Coordinator arranged for a booth at the event assisted by SNARS (Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society) members Wes Vick KG7QXE, Bill Ryan KI7UQT, Sandra Ryan KI7WSN, Greg Moore KG7DMI, Kim Farnham KG7TMA and Shawn Stoddard KG7VUI. Washoe County ARES had their Emergency Vehicle in attendance with Washoe County Emergency Coordinator Bob Miller WA6MTY and John Miller N7JDM handling the duties.

The booth was packed with attendees from 10 am to 4pm learning hands on about amateur radio communicating through the areas extensive repeater network 2 meter and DMR as well as the HF bands. Children were even given the opportunity to use various CW keys to pound out their names. The event also allowed SNARS to promote the upcoming ARRL Nevada State Convention July 19/20 2019 in Reno (NVCON.ORG) to a wide-ranging receptive new audience.

This will become an annual event on the northern Nevada amateur radio calendar going forward.

73, WD6CHC Chuck Farnham



[Editor's note: These photos are so great and speak for themselves so well that I'm not captioning them. It's obvious the kids had a blast! The SNARS ops in the photos are Barry Bettman K6ST (green shirt), Wes Vick KG7QXE (brown shirt/NVCON hat), Greg Moore KG7DMI (blue/white plaid shirt), and Bill Ryan KI7UQT (first photo on pg 10). Enjoy! //HH]



NVCON
RENO-TAHOE 2019

Nevada State Amateur Radio Convention
July 19 – 21, 2019
Boomtown Casino Hotel • Reno, Nevada



ARRL KIDS DAYS

Saturday June 15th, 2019



Discovery Museum, Reno, NV

Interest and engagement in science for all.

Through unique, hands-on programs and exhibits, The Discovery creates learning experiences that range from simple curiosity to deep understanding, empowering a community of critical thinkers.

About Kids Day

Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grand-kids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public! Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children.



In January 2019, SNARS had a very successful Kids Day Event at Cabella's.

For more information on ARRL Kids Day <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day> and look for upcoming new posting on snars.org later in the month of May.

73,

Barry K6ST k6st@arrl.net

Nevada Section Youth Coordinator - ARRL (American Radio Relay League)

photos taken by KG7TMA Kim Farnham

W7SSB's FUN STUFF

MFJ 1780 BOX FAN PORTABLE LOOP ANTENNA!

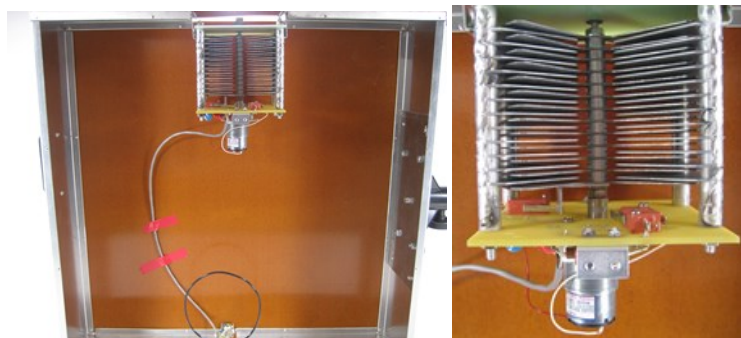
It has been around since the late 90's but not well known!



<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1780>

The antenna is a 2' x2' aluminum box with fiberglass side panels! Please look at the attached pictures to see the interior of the antenna!

The antenna is remote tuned using 13.8 vdc thru the control box (bias T) using the coax cable to the antenna and dc motor attached to the tuning capacitor!



The antenna covers 14 - 30 MHz. It will handle 100 watts of RF power!

There are 2 control boxes available. (cross needle model is optional).



(Editor's note: The MFJ 1780 comes with the top loop control box, which does NOT include an SWR meter. One is required to properly tune the loop! The controller with the cross-needle meters shown below the included control works well with it also, and should be available from a dealer, but it is not listed in the catalog.

Do not run more than 150 watts thru the control box!
It is not waterproof! Not for permanent outdoor use!



DON'S WEBSITES of the month.....

<https://www.dummies.com/programming/ham-radio/10-handy-ham-radio-websites/>

Besides a "Dummies" book for Ham Radio, this website also has links to basic Amateur services for newcomers: ARRL, QRZ.com, eHam.net, propagation sites, contest calendar, and more.

<http://www.astrosurf.com/luxorion/qsl-hamshack.htm>

A site full of hamshacks to drool over.....

<https://www.ccrane.com/expert-advice/all/1/article/14>

C.Crane is a manufacturer of portable high quality shortwave, AM/FM, and utility band radios. Good basic SWLing info here.....

Don will also be demoing some Chameleon stuff on Saturday. If you're into backpacking/portable stuff, take a trip to their web-site:

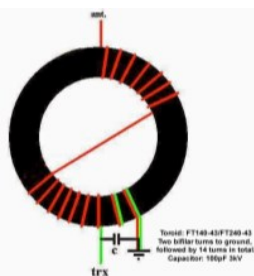
www.chameleonantenna.com

ON FEEDING HALF-WAVE END-FED ANTENNAS

I know, from over five years of experience here in northern NV, that even a relatively low half-wave, end-fed inverted L antenna on 40 meters works out reasonably well. While I'll never be the king of DX (not my goal anyway), I work my share, and usually pretty easily. Farthest contact on 40 with a 14 ft high L whose "counterpoise" is just 10 ft long (and 75 watts) has been over 10,600 miles to extreme eastern South Africa. Working out in all directions all over the country, indeed the globe, is no problem. At least on CW. A nice thing about end-fed inverted L's is the feed point can easily be on the ground. No sag by weighting down the center of the antenna. (think Field Day!)

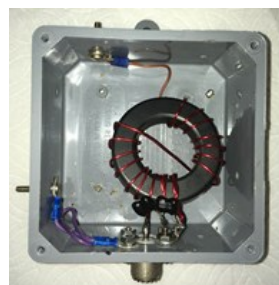
So how does one feed an end-fed half wave antenna? The usual transmitter is looking for a 50 ohm feedpoint impedance. The typical half-wave end-fed is somewhere around several thousand ohms at the end. Not exactly a match. I've experimented with three ways to match, all of which work, two of which are better in my mind, only because they are actual tuned circuits, not just an impedance transformer. I'll explain that later. I've never seen the three methods explained together, so here we go. FYI there are no "new" ideas here, and some of what I do would violate some hams' ideas of how to do it, but my log book, even though "hindered" by the antiquated and obsolete (by some standards) equipment I usually use, speaks for itself!

My first one, championed by PD7MAA is an untuned secondary step-up impedance transformer, with both winding grounds connected together. Wound on an Amidon FT240-43 ferrite core, it transforms 50 ohms into about 3200 ohms, determined by the square of the actual turns ratio (8:1 so $8 \times 8 \times 50 = 3200$). It works well from about 80 meters to 20 meters feeding a half wavelength or multiple half wavelength wire, with a very short counterpoise for ground, but any harmonics of your output frequency will be radiated efficiently.



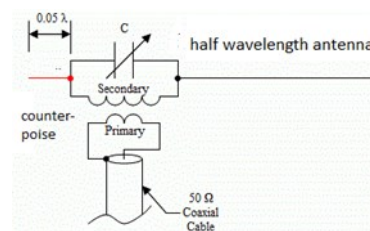
**PD7MAA's end-fed
step-up transformer**

My next method was popularized by Steve Yates AA5TB. It's a widely used tuned secondary step-up transformer wound on an Amidon T200-2 powdered iron toroid core. There is no connection between the two windings. Like the first one, the step-up ratio is determined by the turns ratio, but it is tuned to the frequency you want to operate on. It will only work well on that frequency. Instead of a variable capacitor as in Steve's drawing, I used an 18 inch length of RG-223 coax for a capacitor, and cut



My version in an ABS box

it to resonate on the lower end of 40 meters for CW. Harmonics are not well radiated because it is tuned, but mine is not easily or reversibly tuned to other frequencies without changing the coax section. That may not be real convenient, but for 40 CW it never needs retuning, and mounted in the ABS electrical junction box it's very rugged!

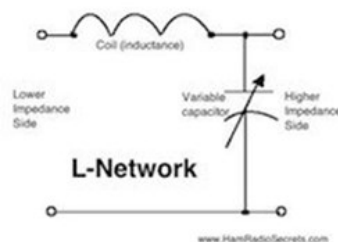


**AA5TB's very popular EFHW feed
shown schematically**



**One of my versions
(I have three.....)**

The third design I used is a simple L-network tuner, right out of any good antenna manual. The inductance and capacitance values, and the actual configuration (capacitor on the output side) are selected to feed a high impedance antenna like a half wave end-fed. Like the preceding tuner, it only works well on the frequency to which it is tuned, and harmonics are not well radiated. The tuner pictured is for 20 meters, and requires a slight re-tune if you shift from the CW portion to the phone portion of the band or vice versa. The 50 pF variable capacitor has to withstand about 2KV or more. The coil is space-wound with 15 turns of #18 magnet wire on a 1.4 inch diameter. This type of tuner, but with the capacitor on the input side instead, will feed very low impedance (short) antennas as well, but requires vastly different inductor and capacitor values.



**L network for feeding a high
impedance antenna**



**My L-network laid out on
wood for testing**

All three of the antenna matching networks shown here are simple, easily and inexpensively built, and will handle 100 watts comfortably (but could be built for more), and on each only a short counterpoise ground is required due to the very high feed impedance. Depending on the installation, a simple choke balun may also be required, and it can be made by winding about 6 to 8 turns of the coax feed from your transmitter into a 6 inch diameter coil, about 6 feet from the tuner. The first tuner shown is not preferable for a Field Day type environment, only because it will radiate any harmonics that may come from your transmitter (and THEY WILL BE THERE, even if very weak!!!) Being usable on harmonic frequencies, it will work on multiple bands. The second two, being tuned, will attenuate (but NOT eliminate) any harmonics. They will only work well on the band for which they are built and tuned. Thinking I might just use these at Field Day!.....WB2AWQ

NVCON Notes

We are still needing some leaders to step forward and help with these events...

Coming to NVCON – The Country Store

This is a new part of hamfests that has been showing up around the country and it has been very popular. It is an extension of the swap-meet without a lot of effort on the part of the seller. It is a location where they can bring a couple of items without buying a space and sitting there all day to try and make a sale. This year, we will have a room in the main convention space dedicated to this. The way it works is you can fill out a form listing your equipment and the price, and the crew running the store will sell it for you. It is recommended that you make a one page description of the equipment to be placed with the equipment. Buyers will pay for the items by cash or check. For this service, you will pay a 10% or more consignment fee if your item sells. If it doesn't, it can be picked up at the end of the show on Saturday afternoon, and there is no charge. In the mean time, you are free to go to the sessions, visit the vendors, and, on Saturday, wander out into the swap meet and find more goodies for your shack. You can set the price, and, if sold, within 2 weeks, we will send you a check for items sold minus the consignment fee. That fee covers the cost of the space, tables, etc. Watch for more information as we get closer to NVCON.

We are currently looking for knowledgeable hams to staff the store. They should have a broad knowledge of ham and test gear to be able to help the buyers. We will have 2 hour blocks available for volunteers for this staffing. We are also looking for a Store Manager to be in charge of this operation, if you are interested, contact Jim, W6US at nvjims@gmail.com.

Presentation Manager for NVCON

One of the big features of a convention like NVCON is the educational and informational sessions that are available. We need a person to be a point of contact for the speakers. Duties will include scheduling the presentations, determining what resources are needed (tables, projectors, easels, etc), maintaining the vendor/speaker hospitality room, and making the speakers feel welcomed and a valued member of the NVCON team. If you are interested, contact Tony, W7XM at w7xm@snars.org

Pipe and Drape Crew

Here is the opportunity for those younger, stronger and more physically agile members of the club to make a big impact on the overall presentation of NVCON. We are looking for four or more people to set up the tables and the pipes and drapes on Thursday evening, and remove them Sunday morning at the convention. If you, or your athletic offspring are interested, please contact Tony, W7XM at w7xm@snars.org

NOTES FROM WES VICK KG7QXE

The Reno Ham Swap, Rob Dunbar is no longer doing it. No one has stepped up yet to fill in! (Anyone need a VERY part-time job? Double Rob's salary....)

The NW ARES Net moved from MONDAY to THURSDAY (Same Time)...

NAME THAT RIG



(Answer on page 14)

JIM'S SHORT TAKES

Ham Radio Night, May 1, 2019

This session will be primarily devoted to helping those new hams from the April 20th license session get on the air. If you have a question, or an answer, come see us at the REOC at 6pm. There may be some DMR programming help available at that time.

7th Area QSO Party, May 4th

Running from 6 in the morning until midnight, hams in the 7th call zone, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Arizona, will be on the air. Instate hams will give a signal report and their 5 character state/county abbreviation and out of state will give their 2 character state and signal report. We need HF stations out in ALL of Nevada's 17 counties—Last year Elko and Humboldt were not active and a single mobile station was the only one in 4 other counties. This is a good warm up for the Nevada QSO Party in October, and a good time to get out and see the spring wildflowers around the state... Full information and rules are at <http://ws7n.net/7QP/new/Page.asp?Content=start> Can't get away to a remote location? We also need lots of operators using their home QTH especially on CW and Digital.

(Editor's note: I'll be there on CW, will you? It's a neat contest to be a star in, it's not ALL WEEKEND LONG, and I'm not generally a contest operator! Just fun to do.....)

Dayton Hamvention, May 17-19, 2019

This is the biggest Hamfest in the country with about 30,000 hams attending. It is also the ARRL National Convention this year. Every ham should attend this one at least once. Virtually all of the ham radio vendors are here, and there are acres and acres of the swap meet. There will be educational sessions, and this is where a lot of the newest gear is introduced. Unfortunately, this is not occurring a couple of miles east of Carson City, but at the Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, Ohio, a few miles east of Dayton, Ohio. For more info: <https://hamvention.org/>

Spring DX season

There are a lot of DXpeditions out there this month. Mongolia and the Maldives will probably be a new one in the log for a lot of us. See <https://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html> for a good list.

FUN STUFF FOR MAY

May is short in major contests. No events in May are NCI or ARRL-sponsored, which would possibly qualify for the ARRL Gavel Award. But see W6US' writeup for the 7QP!!!

4 May 0001 to 5 May 2359 28 10-10 International Spring Contest, CW www.ten-ten.org

4 May 1300 to 5 May 0700 1.8-28 7th Call Area QSO Party CW Ph Dig ws7n.net/7QP

25 May 0000 to 26 May 2359 1.8-28 CQ WW WPX Contest, CW www.cqwpw.com

A complete list of contests is available at:
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2019/May%202019%20Corral.pdf>

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase! May seems to favor Asia, western Pacific, and the Indian Ocean. Some of the better DX operations coming up in April:

May 02 to May 05 **Fiji 3D2AS**

May 02 to May 12 **Mongolia JT**

May 07 to May 10 **Maldives 8Q7NH**

May 08 to May 22 **Wallis & Futuna FW**

May 10 to May 12 **Luxembourg LX8SAR**

May 13 to May 19 **Vietnam XV9BO**

May 15 to Jun 05 **Reunion FR**

May 22 to May 29 **Seychelles S79HA**

May 23 to May 28 East **Malaysia 9M6NA**

May 25 to Jun 02 **Georgia 4L9S**

Visit <https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html> for more DX operations.

NAME THAT RIG (from pg 13)

How about a Chevy Volt? Or a Nissan Versa? Or a half dozen (at least) other NEW cars you can buy for less than this radio lists for? The **Icom IC-7851** lists for a staggering \$16,000, folks. Granted, it has tons of great features and outstanding performance, doing practically everything but your dirty dishes. Actually, it could be yours for a mere \$12,500 if you shop around a bit. Seriously, Icom really does concentrate on the pursuit of perfection in receiver performance, features and versatility, and it has 200 watts output, just 1.5 S units down from a full 1500W PEP....but at the price I'll stick with my WW2 surplus BC-348Q!//HH

TECH COMMITTEE UPDATE

MR-Access Road Thu Apr 25 2019 11:07:05



MT ROSE - Looking down the access road to Mt. Rose. Much of the snow has melted; but, it's still going to be quite a while before the site is accessible; mid July at least! The fence around the tower is just starting to show! Thank you to Dave Metts, K7UI, for working with NV Energy to get power restored to Mt. Rose after a very long power outage this winter; the generator was running all that time. No doubt there will be some maintenance to do at Mt. Rose this summer.

OPHIR - This winter has been very hard on our mountaintop infrastructure. The tower at Ophir, that holds the 146.610 repeater antenna, has a broken guy wire. Replacement of the broken guy wire needs to occur ASAP and is one of the many spring projects that will be on the front burner.

DAVIDSON - This site needs a lot of attention. The biggest issue is the building needs some repairs and modifications to prevent rodent infestation; we hope to schedule this work this summer! Davidson is home to our 444.825 DMR repeater and the 927.0875 repeater. It also hosts the NARRI 441.625 IRLP repeater and 444.625 and 145.175 DSTAR repeaters. It also hosts a Condor repeater on 224.500.

VIRGINIA PEAK - No change in status with Virginia Peak since last month's CS. The snow is quickly melting, so we should be able to access the site soon! There is preventive maintenance to do and we have some brand new 12 volt batteries to install to replace the old wet cells that have been there for years and need to be removed.

PEAVINE - As soon as the site is accessible after near record snow falls this year, there is much work to do at Peavine. Installation of the antenna for the "long waited for" 444.125 repeater that will provide a UHF input to the analog system in the Reno/Sparks area. We also have a VHF Mastr III repeater ready to take the place of the old Mastr II repeater that is currently the 147.210 repeater. Additionally, the lower Peavine site on Verdi Ridge has a broken guy wire that will also need to be replaced ASAP.

TOULON - At last issue, the 146.925 repeater was off the air. Thanks to Dave Metts, K7UI, for making the long trip to the site and troubleshooting the power supply problem. W7DED and XYL made a trip to Toulon to replace the power supply and get the repeater back on the air. Winnemucca 146.670 and Lovelock 146.925 are now linked back into the analog system.

WINNEMUCCA MTN - After restoring the power supply at Toulon, this brought traffic from Winnemucca back into the system. The status of the link to the Elko system is still unknown at this time; but, as the mountaintops become accessible, I'm sure the Elko group will be working to reestablish the link between SNARS and ELKO ARC.

(continued on pg 16)

ARES NEWS

COUNTY	REPEATER	COUNTY	REPEATER	COUNTY	REPEATER	COUNTY	REPEATER
Alpine, Ca	147.33	Douglas	147.33	Pershing	147.03	Washoe	147.15
	146.94		147.27		147.18		147.21
	147.24		147.24	Placer, Ca	147.24		147.03
	147.27		146.865	Plumas, Ca	147.15		147.18
	146.865	Eldorado, Ca	147.24		147.21		146.61
Churchill	147.15	Lassen, Ca	147.18	Sierra, Ca	147.15		147.39
	147.21				147.33		
	147.03	Lyon	146.97	Storey	147.15	EchoLink and IRLP	146.895
	147.18		146.61		147.21		147.3
	146.97		147.15		147.03	DMR	TALK GRPS
Carson City	146.61	Mineral			147.18		
	146.94	Modoc, Ca			146.61		
	147.39	Mono, Ca			147.39		
	147.27	Nevada, Ca	147.15		146.85		

Do you like to camp out? The Tahoe Rim Trail is July 21 and 22, a 100 mile back country run. Runners start at 0600 on the 21st and run until 1400 on the 22nd. We need Ham operators at as many aid stations to help with emergency communications and help the runners finish safely. If you have a portable station you can set that up or at least have an HT.

Would you like free access to the Reno Air Races from 9/8 through 9/15? We volunteer 15 hours (3 shifts) to help with security. You will have access to the entire air races that the public does plus free parking about a \$450 value. Bring your friends 18 years and older.

Saturday May 18th is my next "One Day Ham Cram" to review the Technician Test and General Test before you take the test. Be sure to go to www.snars.org/oneday and register so I have enough handouts.

Remember the General test changes July 1 so you will need to complete the test before June 30 or you will need to buy a new book.

Bob Miller WA6MTY
Emergency Coordinator for Washoe County
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
775 843-5952
www.wcares.us
wa6mty@gbis.com

EVENTS CALENDAR 2019

EVENT 2019	DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ORGANIZER	COORDINATOR	CONTACT
SAGAN FONDO	5/4/19		Peter Sagan	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Silver State 50/50 race	5/18/19		Silver State Striders	Steve KS6A	ks6a@sbcglobal.net
Indian Valley Century Bicycle Ride	????		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Lost and Found Gravel Grinder SBTS	6/1/19		Plumas ARC	Brian KJ6EAC	brianv@psln.com
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride	6/2/19		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWW	wa6ewv@juno.com
Pony Express Re-Ride	6/10/2019	6/20/19	SIERA	Jeff Cauhape K7BCV	j_cauhape@yahoo.com
RENO 5000-2	6/30/19		WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Alta Alpina Challenge	6/30/19		Alta Alpina Cycling Club	Jennie Hamiter, KE7YBA	jenniehamiter@mac.com
Death Ride	7/13/19		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWW	wa6ewv@juno.com
Tahoe Rim Trail	7/20/19	7/22/19	Tahoe Mountain Milers	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
NVCON 2019	7/20/19	7/22/19	SNARS	Tony W7XM	w7xm@snars.org
Round Valley Walk/Run	????		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Running With the Bears	8/17/19		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Vegas to Reno Off Road Race	8/14/19	8/17/19	Best in the Desert Racing Assn	Keith KC7HTK	kc7htkeith@hotmail.com
RENO 5000-3	8/25/19		WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Tour De Tahoe	9/8/19		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul Gulbro, WA6EWW	wa6ewv@juno.com
Reno Air-Races	9/8/15	9/15/19	WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Bear Growl Gravel Grinder	9/14/19		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Edible Pedal 100	9/15/19		Sunrise Rotary Club	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Stetina's Sierra Prospect	9/21/19		John Prouty	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Grinduro SBTS	9/28/19		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrtoter@sbcglobal.net
Nevada Day Parade	10/26/19		NV AREA NW DEC	John Abrott KD7NHC	jabrott77@gmail.com , cell 775 790-1739.
Turkey Trot	11/28/19		WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com

NOTE: Plumas ARC always have a need for operators. Go over to some beautiful country and help out the Plumas Amateur Radio Club

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TECH COMMITTEE UPDATE cont'd from pg 14

Lobdelle Peak – 444.875 in Yerington appears to be functioning normally. This site is now accessible and we'll be planning a trip to PM the equipment soon. The 145.050 packet node had a new TNC installed last fall, but appears to not be functioning correctly; it will be removed at the first opportunity to look into the issue; at this time, it's believed to just be a configuration problem.

GSR – Installation of the IRLP computer for the 147.300 repeater is going to get put on the front burner; this has been a long time coming; we are anxious to get this going! The repeater itself is functioning, so feel free to use check it out.

DMR SITES – The tech committee is unaware of any issues with any of the DMR repeaters. I would encourage those who have DMR capability to participate in the nets that occur on the SNARS talk group. Check SNARS.org for more information on these nets.

If there are any questions regarding any of the sites, feel free to contact me at w7ded@sbcglobal.net.

73,
Pat, W7DED
SNARS - Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society, Inc—<http://snars.org>

April 10, 2019 - 6:00 PM

Chin Chin, Sparks NV

1. Call to order and roll call at 6:00 PM

Anthony Marcin, W7XM	NP	Barry Bettman, K6ST	P	John Miller, N7JDM	P
Bill Jones, AE7OX	P	John Byerly, N7ROJ	P	Wes Vick, KG7QXE	P
Jim Shepherd, W6US	P				
Doug Edmondo, W7DBE – Recording Secretary					
Pat Sheehan, W7DED – Technical Team Lead					
Marc Hanks, K7HMR – Visiting Member					

2. Approval of Minutes

- A. Approval of minutes of the March Board of Directors Meeting. The board approved the minutes from March
- B. Approval of Agenda. The board approved the April agenda.

3. Reports

A. President's Report

- 1. Status Report. John reported that Tony will continue with NV Con activities.
- 2. Noted that there is an opportunity to add items to the top of the news letter for requests for help etc.

B. Secretary Report

- 1. My Report for NVCON: Will get back to it this weekend on the remaining tasks. We need to find volunteers for setup and tear down, need to finish up filling up the speakers, need to follow up with Bob Miller on the State EM Meeting for Friday morning at NVCON, work on what we are going to do for the receptions (sponsorship) and get a quote for the raffle prizes we will need to purchase. We are getting a lot donated again this year we wont have to buy the little prizes it looks like this year just the grand prizes. End of Report.

C. Membership Coordinator

- 1. Membership Status - Report. John B. discussed getting all club merchandise inventory back to Julie Dodge.

D. Treasurer

- 1. Financial Report. The change to US Bank is in progress, Bill funded four accounts and is in the process of moving remaining funds.
- 2. Checking: \$4135 Savings: \$8,173 Paypal: \$3,860 Conv: \$8,688 Self-Ins: \$4,675

E. Technical Team - Report

1. Status Report - Technical Team Lead. Pat reported that Toulon is back up and running. The issue that caused the fuse to blow was that the transmitted power was somehow reset to a much higher level. Pat reports he is ready to conduct the IRLP work on GSR. NV Energy is also performing upgrades on Davidson and Ophir.
2. Somewhat related, the club received a donation of electronics. Will be inventoried to see what items can be sold or used etc.....
3. Equipment is coming back from folks that borrowed and will be signed back out or available for others.

F. Control Operators / Trustee

1. Status Report - Control Operator and Trustee. Continued discussion on training additional control operators. John B. suggested that NCS operators be trained so that they can resolve repeater issues during their Nets.

G. Events

1. NVCON 2019. Need help for set up tear down etc.
2. Field Day 2019. Not much to report. Jim would like more operators, especially for late night shifts.
3. Ham Swap. No change from Boards decision last month to hold one at NVCON and then decide if we hold another later in the year.
4. NVQSO Party. Jim reported that he is working with the logging Software Companys and we will be adding FT-8 to the modes for this year.

H. Education Activities

1. Status Report - General Education Activities. Jim is putting together "Odd" month training at HAM night at the EOC (Topics like CTSS etc that they don't teach in the Technician level class).
2. Youth involvement. Barry reported that the rookie round up is Sunday, discussed SNARS participation at Kids on Big Rigs. Discussed Kids day at the Discovery museum - Doug reported a planning meeting first week of May. Look for an article in the June QST. Trying to get more kids involved in Field Day. Maybe an NVCON speaker etc related to kids. Still on hold with the Boys and Girls club and is working with Boys and Girls Scouts on October Jamboree on the air.

I. Noon Net

Status Report - Net Manager. No status

J. New Business

1. 7QP Sponsorship - 4 Plaques at \$40.00 each - Total \$160 for 2019.
Low Power Phone Assisted, Low Power Mixed Assisted, Hi Power Phone,
Low Power Phone Categories to sponsor. Board approved
2. Pacificon Table - Oct 2019. Hotel Cost Reimbursement. Tabled for NTE dollar amount
3. Swag Items for table. Tony, \$200 approved
4. Breakfast Drawing Prizes - Board to contact Don about his antenna tapes.

K. Public Comments

1. Open for comments from the board of directors or the general membership and guests in attendance.
None from the Public

L. Adjournment of the board of directors

1. Next Meeting: Chin Chin on May 8th at 6pm
2. Call for Adjournment. Adjourned.